

**From:** Sherman, Robert (Orlando)  
**To:** 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'  
**Date:** 12/27/01 11:34am  
**Subject:** Nader & Love said it best!

Linux is not a Cancer attacking innovation...It represents the innovation of every college, gifted user/programmer and even some highly innovative companies. Microsoft is actively trying to squash this movement...look closely at the changes at Corel, a company which once offered a vibrant Linux distribution which had a focus on creating a viable Linux Desktop OS. They experienced some financial trouble, which is in and of itself an odd situation, and when Microsoft bailed them out...they decided to end Linux OS development.

Mr.(s) Nader and Love Stated...

What is surprising is that the US Department of Justice allowed Microsoft to place so many provisions in the agreement that can be used to undermine the free software movement. Note for example that under J.1 and J.2 of the proposed final order, Microsoft can withhold technical information from third parties on the grounds that Microsoft does not certify the "authenticity and viability of its business," while at the same time it is describing the licensing system for Linux as a "cancer" that threatens the demise of both the intellectual property rights system and the future of research and development. The agreement provides Microsoft with a rich set of strategies to undermine the development of free software, which depends upon the free sharing of technical information with the general public, taking advantage of the collective intelligence of users of software, who share ideas on improvements in the code. If Microsoft can tightly control access to technical information under a court approved plan, or charge fees, and use its monopoly power over the client space to migrate users to proprietary interfaces, it will harm the development of key alternatives, and lead to a less contestable and less competitive platform, with more consumer lock-in, and more consumer harm, as Microsoft continues to hike up its prices for its monopoly products.

This open Source movement is important, innovative and should be protected.